

Filed for intro on 01/14/2002

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 606

By White

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Commander John  
Anthony Feldhaus and his meritorious service to  
the United States.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans have continued this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the United States Navy; and

WHEREAS, John Anthony Feldhaus was one such estimable Tennessean who served with courage and conviction; a native of Lawrenceburg, "Jack" Feldhaus was wholly devoted to his Nation and countrymen, and he made the ultimate sacrifice while serving as a Naval Aviator; and

WHEREAS, having been a Pilot in the United States Navy for several years at the onset of the Vietnam War, Lieutenant Feldhaus could have completed his tenure as an instructor in a stateside flight school, but he made the patriotic decision to volunteer his vast talents to be utilized in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, while returning to the *USS Oriskany* after a bombing mission, Lieutenant Feldhaus, as was his nature, went above and beyond the call of duty to complete an elective attack, utilizing his excess ordinance; his A-1H was struck by enemy fire and went down, and Lieutenant Feldhaus was thereafter declared missing in action; and

WHEREAS, promoted to Commander while classified MIA, John Anthony Feldhaus was eventually presumed lost; and

WHEREAS, although it initially appeared that Vietnam would remain his final resting place, the body of Commander Feldhaus was recently located and positively identified by the Navy, allowing a return to his native land for burial; and

WHEREAS, Commander Feldhaus has long occupied a revered position in the history of our Nation and its Armed Forces, and he now rests in the hallowed ground of Arlington National Cemetery among his fellow courageous patriots who gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of current and future citizens of their Nation; and

WHEREAS, Commander Feldhaus served with great bravery and ability and performed his duties with the utmost skill, dedication, and professionalism; his service could only be categorized as outstanding and he has earned all honor and recognition that we could possibly bestow; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we join with the family of Commander John Anthony Feldhaus to honor his memory, reflecting fondly on his selfless devotion, unsurpassed moral courage, and meritorious service to the United States Navy, and we express our pride in, and gratitude for, his supreme contributions to this State and our Nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.